United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/987
2 October 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General appeals to all parties in conflict in Yugoslavia to reduce hostilities and accept European Economic Community's efforts towards peace.

- President of Security Council says Council has concluded that necessary conditions do not exist for modification of sanctions against Iraq.

- Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that it authorize establishment of United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia to begin as soon as comprehensive agreement is signed.

- General Assembly is addressed this morning by Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago; Foreign Ministers of Bahrain, Israel and Bangladesh; Premier of Administrative Council of Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Foreign Ministers of Thailand, Jordan, Namibia and Bhutan also make statements.

- Secretary-General decides to transfer, as of 1 November, day-to-day management and administrative support of United Nations Border Relief Operation from United Nations Development Programme to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

- Social progress is no match for economic growth in Asia-Pacific region, says report by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

- Board of Directors of International Monetary Fund predicts that current recession in industrial countries will be "relatively short-lived".

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has appealed to all parties in Yugoslavia to reduce the hostilities and to "help the peaceful efforts of the European Economic Community (EEC) countries".

(more)

For information media—not an official record

He made the appeal this morning when asked by correspondents whether he was considering any new initiatives to try and stop the fighting now that the cease-fire had apparently broken down again.

The Secretary-General told correspondents that he was "extremely concerned" about the present situation and that he hoped that "wisdom would prevail".

He said the efforts at mediation by Lord Carrington, representing the EEC, should be supported by all parties and he should be given time to create the necessary atmosphere for a negotiated solution of the problem.

The Security Council expressed its unanimous support for the efforts of the EEC in a resolution last week.

* * *

The Security Council today held consultations as part of its regular 60-day review of sanctions against Iraq, in accordance with paragraph 21 of resolution 687 (1991), which set the terms for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf conflict.

Following consultations, the Council President, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan of India, read out a statement saying that after hearing all the opinions expressed in the course of the consultations, he had concluded that the necessary conditions had not been met for a modification of the regime established in paragraph 20 of the so-called cease-fire resolution, as required in paragraph 21 of that resolution.

* * *

The Secretary-General has recommended to the Security Council that it authorize the establishment of a United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), which would assume its functions as soon as a comprehensive agreement is signed. It is expected that such an agreement will be signed at the end of October.

In a report to the Security Council, dated 30 September, the Secretary-General proposed that the advance mission would assist the Cambodian parties in maintaining the present cease-fire, and would also begin to clear out land mines.

The mission would eventually be absorbed into the long-term mission known as UNTAC -- the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia -- which is envisaged to verify the cease-fire and oversee elections.

In terms of staffing, the Secretary-General has estimated that the advance mission would require eight civilian liaison staff, 50 military liaison officers, 20 other military personnel for mine-clearing, and about 75 international and 75 local civilian support staff. In addition, a military communications unit of some 40 persons could be provided by Australia.

(more)

The mission, which is to be headquartered in Phnom Penh, would cost an estimated $19.9 million for six months of operation. Deployment is envisioned in two stages -- the first group would arrive around the end of October when the peace agreement is signed, and the second group would arrive between mid-November and mid-December.

* * *

Opening this morning's General Assembly debate, the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago, Marjorie Thorpe, said that island developing States, aware of the grave threat that climate change and sea-level rise may pose to their very existence, have already formed themselves into the interregional "Alliance of Small Island States" (AOSIS), and have undertaken a critical coordinating role in the climate negotiations to be completed before the holding of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which will take place in Brazil in 1992.

Speaking about illicit traffic and use of drugs, Ms. Thorpe reiterated the support of her Government for the strengthening of the United Nations activities within the new International Drug Control Programme. This development, she said, should allow for a coherent and integrated strategy.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, Shaikh Mohamed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, said the war for the liberation of Kuwait had drawn a parting line between the end of the cold war era and the start of the era of the new world order, which had begun by repulsing the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, on the basis of the principles of collective security.

That, however, did not mean that the sources of the threat and use of force had been eliminated with the termination of the cold war. Outlining his country's perspective of the future components of regional security in the Gulf, Mr. Al-Khalifa said it was necessary to avert any potential military danger to the States of the region through security arrangements capable of deterring any aggressor, and to achieve overall development in its economic, social and cultural aspects. Other points of importance were non-interference in internal affairs of States and respect for the principle of the sovereignty of every State, as well as adherence to the principle of settlement of disputes by peaceful means, exclusively.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, David Levy, said that many countries realized today that the root causes of the long-lasting Israeli-Arab conflict lay in the refusal of the Arab States, excluding Egypt, to recognize the existence of Israel and to come to terms with its sovereign independence. He noted that the efforts made by his country to seek peace talks with its neighbours appeared to be finally fruitful. In a few weeks, he said, Israel hoped, through face-to-face discussions with its neighbours, to establish the foundations of a better path for our peoples and for our future generations. He appealed to the leaders of the Arab States to stop the race for destructive weapons in the area.

(more)

In his statement, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Mostafizur Rahman, said human rights had assumed a dominant position in world affairs. The real strength of society was the indomitable spirit of the human being.

For Bangladesh, he said, the fight against poverty and steps to unlock growth remained the foremost challenge to shore up democracy. He said his country's core strategy revolved around Human Resources Development, a concept that combined peoples' participation, poverty alleviation, environmental supportive growth and advancement of human rights and welfare. Its fundamental goal, he said, was to bring the deprived and disadvantaged from the periphery to the centre of development. The right to development, he said, was the most fundamental human right of all.

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Premier of the Administrative Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Yon Hyong Muk, expressed the gratitude of his Government for the unanimous adoption of his country as a new Member of the United Nations.

Reiterating the position of his Government, he said that Korea's reunification should be considered as the reunification of a nation, not unification of the systems through one side conquering or being conquered by the other. His Government believed that only a confederal unification was the most realistic and peace-loving way. He further stated that the adoption of a North-South non-aggression declaration should be the starting point in removing the military confrontation in the Korean peninsula, and fundamentally improving North-South relations. In his opinion, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Korean peninsula should also be considered.

Opening this afternoon's general debate, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Arsa Sarasin, said peace in Cambodia was finally at hand. Thailand had maintained, since the beginning of the problem almost 13 years ago, that Cambodians must be given the right to determine their own destiny. After a decade of war, they had finally decided to talk to one another, he said.

Mr. Sarasin expressed his country's support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk and to the Supreme National Council. In anticipation of the forthcoming elections in Cambodia, he said Thailand would do its best to help ensure that an orderly repatriation of the displaced Cambodians would take place.

In his statement to the general debate, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jordan, Abdullah Nsour, insisted on the right of the Palestinians to participate in the forthcoming peace conference on the Middle East, through representatives nominated by them of their own free will. He said that his Government had also accepted a formula for Palestinian participation through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, should the Palestinian side agree, but leaving the Palestinian side to handle the Palestinian-Israeli aspect of the problem with Israel, while the Jordanian side would deal with the Jordanian-Israeli aspect.

(more)

situation in the Middle East, and the problems associated with reform in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, as reasons for a possible slow recovery.

According to the report, prospects for the developing countries are less favourable than had been expected, particularly for countries in Africa, due in part to the weakening of growth in the industrial countries and the drop in non-oil commodity prices.

* *** *